

PAGE 0002 10: 2002292 JAN 8-

SALVADORAN OFFICER THAT THE MEETING ON THE SAME DAY

OF SALVADORAN COMMANDERS WAS HEATED OVER THE ISSUE OF WHAT TO DO

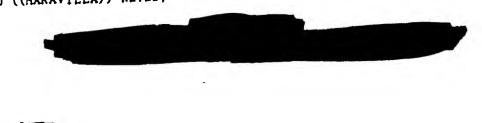
ABOUT THE CASE OF CAPTAIN EDUARDO ((AVILA)) AVILA. IN THE END
HOWEVER, THE COMMANDERS AGREED TO THE PLAN OF GENERAL CARLOS INCENSION
((VIDES)) CASANOVA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, TO TURN THE CASE.

OVER TO A MILITARY COURT. SAID THIS MOVE WAS NECESSARY
IN ORDER TO KEEP AVILA UNDER DETENTION AS WANTED BY THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT. SAID THE MOVE PROBABLY WILL RESULT IN THE
DETENTION OF AVILA UNTIL 17 FEBRUARY BUT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO
HOLD AVILA UNTIL 17 MARCH. THE SALVADORAN HIGH COMMAND IS HOPILG
THIS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TIME TO ACQUIRE EVIDENCE AGAINST AVILA FOR
ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN COSTA RICA WHICH CAN BE USED AGAINST HIM
IN EL SALVADOR.

SAID THAT THERE WAS INITIAL STRONG OPPOSITION BY THE COMMANDERS TO VIDES' ANNOUNCEMENT TO KEEP AVILA UNDER DETENTION. THERE WAS NO DISAGREEMENT OVER THE INVOLVEMENT OF AVILA IN THE SHERATON MURDER CASE NOR WAS THERE A FEELING EXPRESSED FOR A NEED TO "PROTECT" AVILA. ACCORDING TO THE FORM THE OPPOSITION TOOK WAS THAT IT WAS THE TASK OF THE

CIVIL COURTS TO PROSECUTE AVILA, NOT THE ARMY. FURTHERMORE, THERE WAS RESENTMENT THAT THE DECISION TO MAINTAIN AVILA IN CUSTODY CAME AS A RESULT OF U.S. PRESSURES.

4. IN GENERAL, THE TWO BLOCS LINED UP WITH THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS SUPPORTING VIDES AND FLORES: LIEUTENANT COLONEL OSCAR RODOLFO ((CAMPOS)) ANAYA, COMMANDER OF THE CAVALRY REGIMENT; LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEOPOLDO ANTONIO ((HERNANDEZ)), COMMANDER OF THE ARTILLERY BRIGADE; LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIGUEL ALFREDO ((VASCONCELOS)), COMMANDER OF MILITARY DETACHMENT THREE, LA UNION; LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSE DIONISIO ((HERNANDEZ)), COMMANDER OF MILITARY DETACHMENT SIX, SONSONATE, AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL AUGUSTO CANDELARIO ((MARAVILLA)) REYES, COMMANDER OF THE SEVENTH MILITARY



PAGE 113 TOF: 2002297 13 84

THOSE OPPOSING WEEL COLONEL DITATEMENT, AHUACHAPAN DEPARTMENT. THAN EARSEL COBUSTILLOWS, COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCES LIBETEN AND JUINEL NAPOLEON HERSON (CCALITTO)), COMMANDEE OF THE ATOMAE BATTALION, AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL JULIO CESAR ((YANEZ)) LOPLY. COMMANDER OF THE SIXTH HILITARY ZONE.

SAID THAT AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS THE COMMANDERS REACHED A CONSENSUS TO SUPPORT VIDES AND FLORES. THIS CONSENSUS PROBABLY WAS PREDICATED ON A DESIRE BY THE COMMANDERS TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN U.S. HILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR.

OMMENT: THIS MEETING WAS ANOTHER TEST OF THE LEADERSHIP OF VIDES AND FLORES. ARMED FORCES

SAID THAT DISCOM

GROWING OVER THE LACK OF AGGRESSIVENESS OF THE LEADERSHIP IN THE WAR AGAINST THE INSURGENTS. HE SAID THE FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR OF THE ANALYSIS COMMISSION SHOULD TAKE PLACE SOON AND HE EXPECTED THE COMMISSION TO AIR GRIEVANCES AGAINST VIDES AND

